

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 ACDA-12 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 /123 W
-----108465 241020Z /16

R 231838Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4531
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS LONDON 04756

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNSC, XF, MARR, MOPS, LE, IS, UK
SUBJECT: UK PARLIAMENT DISCUSSION ON MIDDLE EAST
POLICY

1. BRITISH POLICY IN THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS
CAME UP DURING THE QUESTION PERIOD IN PARLIAMENT
MARCH 22. REGARDING THE ISRAELI ATTACK, OWEN STATED,
"I DO NOT BELIEVE INTERNATIONAL PEACE IS HELPED BY
RETALIATORY ACTION, BUT IT WOULD BE IDLE TO PRETEND
THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WERE NOT
CRUELLY PROVOKED." OWEN STATED BRITAIN WOULD PROVIDE
LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO UNIFIL AND ADDED "WE HAVE ALREADY
TAKEN STEPS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF" TO THE
LEBANESE REFUGEES FROM THE FIGHTING.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A DEMAND FROM PRO-ARAB CONSERVATIVE
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DENNIS WALTERS THAT HE "REPUDIATE" BEGIN'S POSITION
ON SC RES 242, OWEN REPLIED "IT HAS BEEN THE VIEW OF
SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL
THREE AREAS - GOLAN, THE WEST BANK, AND SINAI - IS PART
OF THE INTERPRETATION OF 242."

3. HUGH FRASER, LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF

ISRAEL, STATED THAT "THE FRENCH HAVE OFFERED A PARA-CHUTE BATTALION TO UNIFIL," AND COMMENTED, "SURELY WE COULD GO FURTHER THAN OFFERING SUPPORT FACILITIES FROM CYPRUS." OWEN REPLIED, "WE WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND WE HAVE GIVEN WHAT WE THOUGHT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. THE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN CYPRUS IS THAT WE ARE ALREADY PROVIDING LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES THERE. BUT IT IS CONVENIENT IN TERMS OF AIRFIELDS AND PORTS FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON. IT WILL PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE SUPPORT BASE WHICH WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO THE STABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE."

4. MEANWHILE, THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE INITIAL SHIPMENT OF RELIEF SUPPLIES CONSISTS OF 150 FAMILY-SIZE TENTS AND 4,000 BLANKETS BEING FLOWN TO BEIRUT MARCH 24.

STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON04756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780130-0180
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabbgr.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc331fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3227209
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK PARLIAMENT DISCUSSION ON MIDDLE EAST POLICY
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, XF, LE, IS, UK, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc331fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014